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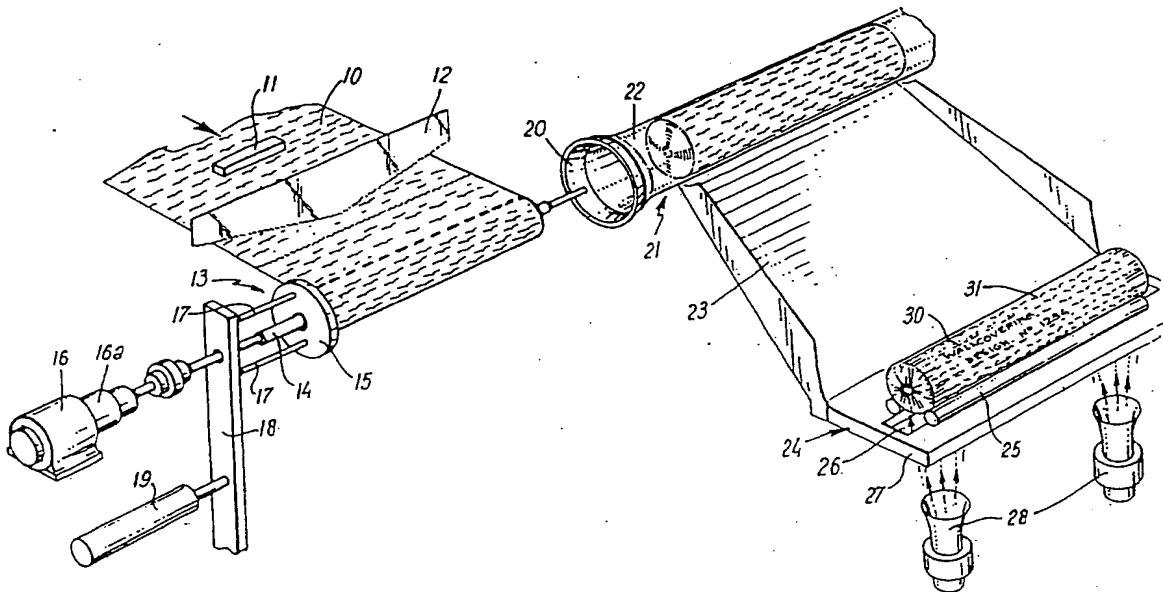
(56) Documents cited
None

(58) Field of search
B8C

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(54) Piece winding and packaging webs

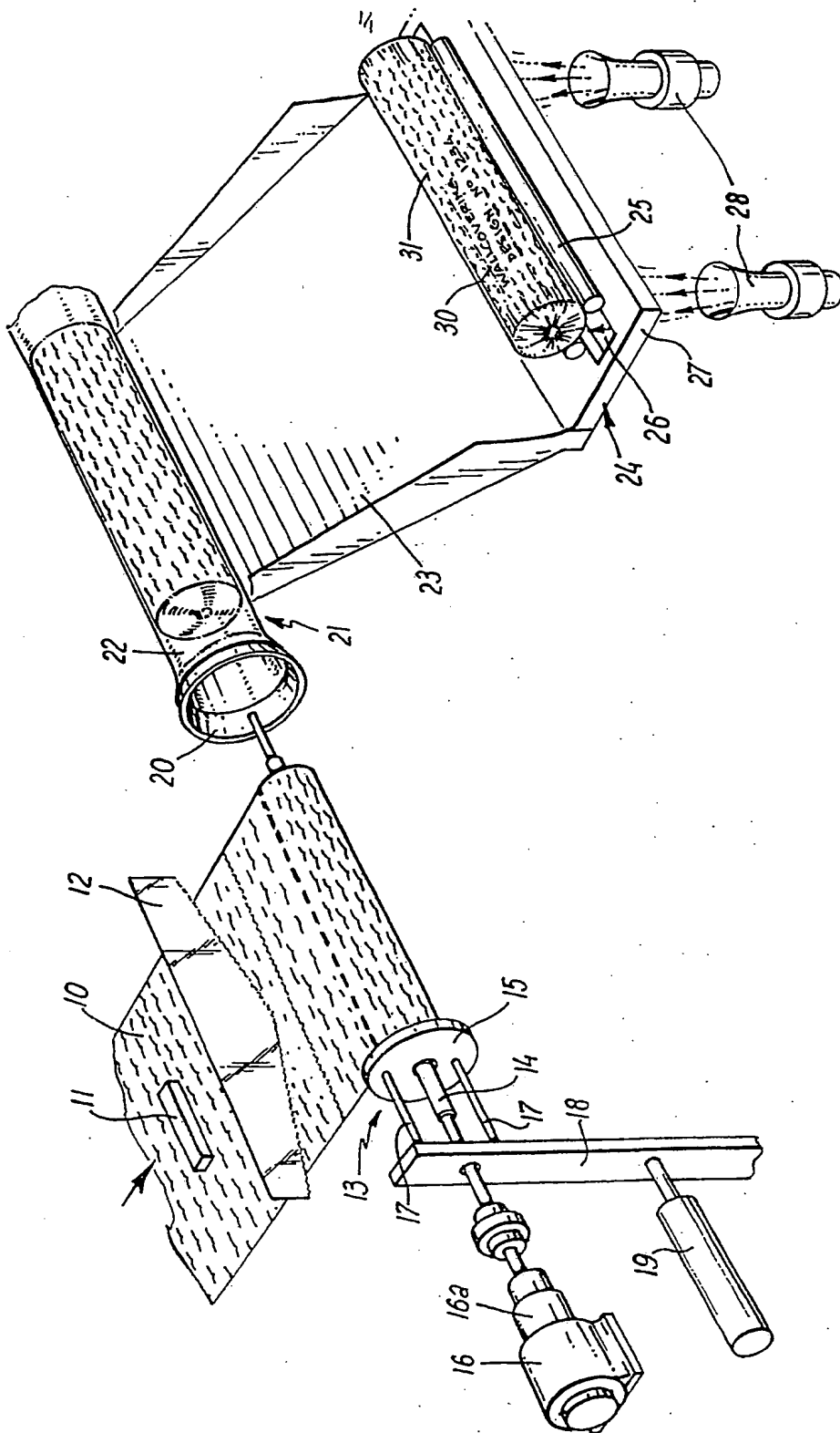
(57) Web 10, such as wall and ceiling covering materials having a pronounced relief surface, is piece wound at a winding station 13 and then inserted into an oversize transparent plastics packaging tube 22 and reverse wound to fill the tube. The packaging tube 22 may have overlapping ends which are heated at a sealing station 24 by heat guns 28 to shrink close the tube over the ends of the wound piece. The tube is preferably preprinted 30 with identification marks and use instructions.



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The drawings originally filed were informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal copy.
This print takes account of replacement documents submitted after the date of filing to enable the application to comply with the formal requirements of the Patents Rules 1982.

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CLAIMS

1. A method of piece winding and packaging comprising the steps of inserting a wound piece into a packaging tube of larger diameter than that of the piece, mechanically agitating the piece so that it increases in diameter to fill the tube, and closing the tube.
2. A method according to claim 1 in which the mechanical agitation is obtained by reverse winding.
3. A method according to claim 1 in which the wound piece is a wall or ceiling covering having a pronounced relief surface and the tube is a clear plastics tube which is longer than the wound piece so that it overlaps the wound piece at both ends.
4. A method according to claim 3 in which the closing of the tube is obtained by heat shrinking of the end overlap.
5. Apparatus for piece winding and packaging according to claim 1 comprising a piece winding station (13), a packaging station having means for offering a packaging tube length (22) to receive the wound piece (WP), means (16) for applying an unwind action to the wound piece in the tube length, and means (28) to close the tube length.
6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the means to close the tube length comprises heat guns.
7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 or 6 in which the tube length is one of clear plastics material having printing thereon which does not obscure the packaged piece.
8. Apparatus according to claim 5 substantially as hereinbefore described.
9. A packaged length of wall or ceiling covering having a pronounced relief made by the method of any one of claims 1 to 4 or with the apparatus of claims 5 to 8.